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Washington Monument.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT,

BALTIMORE.

ACCOUNT OF LAYING THE CORNER-STONE,
RAISING THE STATUE,
DESCRIPTION,
&c. &c.

1849.

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INTRODUCTORY.

Events are the landmarks of history; a day, here and there, conspicuous for some great name, or stirring achievement, are the telegraphic posts that sustain the continuity between the present, and the history and traditions of the past. There are acts, which, at intervals, distinguish the Statesman, or the State, a Commonwealth, or a City.

The 4th of July, 1815, rendered the more brilliant from a peace which had secured what our arms had vindicated, was a memorable day to the City of Baltimore. It was upon this day that her patriotic citizens decreed that a Monument, suited to the dignity and exalted character of the Sage, the Statesman, and the Hero, whom the people delighted to honor, should tower in the midst of their beautiful city. The conception and the resolutions were promptly followed by the execution of the work. A column, designed to perpetuate, in prominent relief, the gratitude of a portion of a great people to "*Pater Patriæ*," the Father of his Country, whose name and character peculiarly does belong, not to this nation, or this age, but to all nations, to the world, and to *Time*. This honorable memento of Baltimore, this becoming and appropriate tribute of her people, has been followed up by other cities, or States, to the revered leader through our Revolutionary ordeal, and to the brave spirits who cheerfully sacrificed their fortunes and their lives upon the sacred altar of our country's rights, and to the happiness of their posterity. This is the true test. While a free people remember the price of their liberties, their value will be held inestimable; and it is only when the sacrifices at which they were purchased shall be forgotten, that those immunities will be lost.

Whatever abstract opinions may have been formed upon the subject of *monumental structures*—of the boasted sufficiency of *history*, and the *hearts* of the people to honor their public benefactors—the practice of every civilized people, and the numerous evidences left us by great nations, whose glories have long since passed away, prove the utility of those durable re-

cords of departed greatness. But for these silent marbles, so eloquent of the history of nations, many of their distinguished men would have been forgotten, or at least only remembered by the more striking incidents of their lives, which even the lapse of ages and the destruction of history have failed to extinguish.

The opinion of the illustrious WASHINGTON himself, may be appealed to on this subject, in favor of commemorating departed worth and patriotism, by the record of their names and deeds on sculptured marble or bronze.

Giuseppe Ceracchi, an eminent sculptor, (the colleague of he celebrated Canova,) an ardent lover of the rights of man, conceived the design of erecting a monument to Liberty in the United States of America, and for this purpose crossed the Atlantic, and arrived in Philadelphia 1791, where he prepared the model of his great work, designed to be 100 feet in height, of statuary marble. The Congress, then sitting in Philadelphia, not feeling themselves authorized to expend the public money in erecting such a monument, Ceracchi, disappointed in this quarter, applied to General Washington to aid him in carrying out his plan; the General, admiring the model, and wishing to serve the man, advised him to try and obtain a subscription by private individuals, the amount of which would cover the expense. He accompanied this advice with a letter recommending the artist and the intended monument, and placed his name at the commencement of the subscription list. This letter and description of the plan are here subjoined:

Sir—Herewith you will receive the description of a monument proposed to be erected to the American revolution, and the plan by which the means for the undertaking are to be provided.

Those who truly admire the great event which established the liberty of this country, and who wish to see the blessing cherished by all who may be heirs to it, will need no exhortation to contribute their reasonable aid to a work which is so well calculated to blend with the glory of the present, a lesson to future generations.

Among the means employed by the wisest and most virtuous people for nourishing and perpetuating the spirit of freedom and patriotism, monumental representations are known to be amongst the most ancient, and perhaps, not the least influential. And as it is the happiness of this country to enjoy an

occasion, more glorious and more auspicious to it, than has been the lot of any other, there ought to be felt a pride, as well as satisfaction, in commemorating it, by a spectacle as unrivalled as the occasion itself. Should the plan, now offered, be successful, this object will be fully attained; for it may, without hazard, be affirmed, that no similar work of equal magnitude and merit, can be boasted by the nations most distinguished for their munificent zeal in rendering the fine arts auxiliaries to the cause of liberty.

Although it was deemed proper to provide for an eventual assumption of the monument and the expense by the Government of the United States; yet it was necessary, both as an immediate and a certain resource, to appeal to the patriotic liberality of individuals. In one view it may be particularly desirable that the monument should be founded on voluntary and diffusive contributions. The event to which it is dedicated, the emblems of which it is composed, and the effect which it is meant to produce, have all an intimate relation to the rights and happiness of the people. Let it be commenced then, not through the organ of the Government as a political act, but in a mode which will best testify the sentiments which spontaneously glow in the breasts of republican citizens.

The artist contemplated for the work is Mr. Ceracchi, of Rome; who, influenced by admiration for the revolution, and by a desire of distinguishing himself as the instrument of erecting a monument worthy of so great a subject, came to the city of Philadelphia in 1791, with a design to prosecute the undertaking, if sufficient means could be found. Since that period he has prepared the model, of which the description is annexed. The model of itself evinces the capacity, genius, and taste of the author, and concurs with other proofs of his distinguished qualifications, to inspire a wish that he could be enabled to execute his plan. The material of the monument is to be statuary marble; its height one hundred feet; its circumference three hundred feet; the height of the principal figure fifteen feet, and the others of various proportional dimensions. It is computed that ten years will be required to complete it.

A hope is entertained that the public spirit of the citizens of the United States, seconded by a taste for the fine arts, will induce them not to suffer to escape so fair an opportunity of raising a lasting monument to the glory of their country; and that

a sufficient number will be found ready to furnish, by subscriptions, the necessary sums. The confidence which is placed in your personal disposition to forward the commendable design, has pointed you out, among a few others, for soliciting and receiving the subscriptions, and is the apology for imposing the task upon you.

A description of the monument consecrated to liberty:

The goddess of liberty is represented descending in a car drawn by four horses, darting through a volume of clouds, which conceals the summit of a rainbow. Her form is at once expressive of dignity and grace. In her right hand she brandishes a flaming dart, which, by dispelling the mists of Error, illuminates the universe; her left is extended in the attitude of calling upon the people of America to listen to her voice. A simple *pileus* covers her head; her hair plays unconfined over her shoulders; her bent brow expresses the energy of her character; her lips appear partly open, whilst her awful voice echoes through the vault of heaven, in favor of the rights of man. Her drapery is simple; she is attired in an ancient *ehlamys*, one end of which is confined under her zone, the rest floats carelessly in the wind; the *corthurnus* covers her feet.

Saturn is her charioteer, emblematical of the return of the golden age; he has just checked the horses, upon her arrival on the American shore. Immediately as the car lights upon the summit of a lofty rock, various groups are seen issuing from compartments at its base, to hail the descent of the goddess, by whose benificent influence they are at once animated into exertion.

The first compartment is consecrated to poetry and history. Apollo, attired in the characteristic dress of that deity, is seated with his lyre in his hand, and his countenance glowing with the sublimity of his song. Clio is employed in recording the hymns with which Apollo salutes the arrival of the goddess of freedom; while the INDEPENDENT STATES, which are blessed by their influence, appear upon a globe which is placed beside her.

In the second compartment, Philosophy, without whose assistance liberty would soon be obscured by ignorance, is represented as presiding at this memorable epoch. He appears in the character of a venerable sage, with a grave and majestic as-

pect. On his head he wears the *modius*, an ornament given to Jupiter by the Egyptians, as a symbol of perfect wisdom. The fasces are in his hand. He is seated, dressed in the consular habit, and leaning upon the altar of Justice. As the inflexible friend of Truth, he is seen tearing off from a female figure, who stands near him in the character of Policy, the false veil which has so long concealed the science of government. Anxiety appears painted on the countenance of Policy; her head is shaded by a small pair of wings; her right arm supports a roll of geographical charts; and a robe of exquisite thinness, gives an additional appearance of velocity to her motion. The gigantic figure below (designed to represent National Valor) rises at the voice of Liberty to combat the oppressors of his country. He eagerly seizes on his arms, which lie near him, and prepares to abandon the tranquil occupations of agriculture for the hazards and tumults of war. His form is muscular and robust; his mantle is thrown carelessly over him; the disorder of his hair, and the fierceness of his countenance inspire Despotism with terror.

The adjoining group represents Neptune seated between two rivers; he appears exhorting Mercury (who stands near him) to take American commerce under his protection, and to increase the glory of the American flag.

At the powerful voice of liberty, NATURE, whose simplicity had been forced to give way to the introduction of the meretricious refinements of *art*, appears starting to life, bursts from the bosom of the earth, and seems about to resume her ancient dignity. A dewy mantle, studded with stars, is supported by her right hand; with her left she is employed in expressing streams of water from her flowing ringlets, allegorically emblematic of the source of rivers.

The last group represents Minerva, the patroness of the arts and sciences. In order to designate the country to which they owe their origin, she is seated on a fragment of an Egyptian obelisk, and holds the *papyrus* in her left hand. Near her stands Genius, with a flambeau in one hand, and a butterfly, the emblem of immortality, in the other—expressive of the grand principles of fire and animation. His countenance is fixed in an attitude of silent attention, whilst the goddess commands him to inspire, with his divine influence, the bosom of the children of Freedom. Behind, is a figure designed to

represent Fame, with her appropriate emblem. A pair of ample pinions shades her shoulders; she holds her trumpet in her left hand; and, with her right, points to the Declaration of Independence, which is inscribed upon a massy column."

The immortal author of the Declaration of American Independence, Thomas Jefferson, the friend of man, thus expresses himself on this subject, in a letter to Robert Mills, of South Carolina, architect, dated March 3d, 1826:

"Your idea of the obelisk monument [referring to the Bunker Hill Monument, the design for which was furnished by Mr. Mills] is a very fine one. I think small temples would also furnish good monumental designs, and would admit of great variety. On a particular occasion, I recommended for *General Washington*, that commonly called the Lantern of Demosthenes, of which you sent me a drawing handsomely done by yourself."

The venerable and universally respected Archbishop Carroll, in his letter to the Committee of the Monument, who had invited him to preside on the occasion, observed, "that though this illustrious man needed not such mementos to his fame, it is worthy of all praise to exhibit grand and solid testimonials of national gratitude to eminent benefactors."

"The utility of national monuments, (says Mr. Wheaton, our late Minister to Prussia,) in stimulating patriotism, the love of fame, and all other generous sentiments, cannot be questioned. They speak to the hearts of a people, and elevate their minds in the contemplation of something higher than mere national events and interests. 'Man liveth not by bread alone;' his soul longs for something more than the satisfaction of mere animal desires. Wise is that Government which ministers to his intellectual wants with liberal bounty, which rewards genius with the palm of glory, and makes the arts instrumental in perpetuating its fame."

The unanimous voice of the American people has already decided upon this subject. In every part of our widely extended free-born empire, we witness the manifestation of this feeling to honor departed excellence, nay, living worth, by recording their names upon durable marble, granite, and bronze, for the certain instruction and admiration of posterity.

The city of Baltimore, by this devoted act of patriotism, and that which succeeded it, has won for herself, by common con-

sent, the proud distinction of "*the Monumental City,*" for her citizens have nobly sustained her honor by erecting another monumental structure commemorative of the glorious achievement of her sons who fell in her defence during the last war.

We must not omit here the passing and well deserved tribute of a stranger to "the praiseworthy and untiring zeal of a few public spirited individuals who have devoted themselves gratuitously to the patriotic task" of directing the work of this monument.

"During a walk to the heights of the Northern portion of our city an evening or two since, we looked with honest pride as natives of Maryland upon the noble tribute paid to the worth of our country's greatest son, in the erection of the magnificent column to the memory of WASHINGTON. After years of solicitude and toil, of conflict with difficulties and vexations, through the praiseworthy and untiring zeal of a few public spirited individuals who have devoted themselves gratuitously to the patriotic task, Maryland can at length boast of a structure in some degree worthy of the great man to commemorate whose worth it is intended. Simple and grand, the majestic column rears itself aloft, bearing on its summit the representation of one whose noble elevation enabled him to look down as from an eminence on the crowd of his fellow-men. WASHINGTON, when living, attained a moral and intellectual exaltation that placed him beyond the more ignoble influences by which human nature is actuated, and aloof from motives that could sully the purity of his spirit, or cast a shade upon the brightness of his fame. Unambitious of controlling others, he achieved the more mighty work of governing himself, and gave a practical illustration of the passage in holy writ, which proclaims that he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. To have been the first among the sister States to erect a monument to the saviour of his country, is a proud distinction in behalf of Maryland. It should be regarded by her sons as a source of patriotic self-gratulation, and so long as the lofty pillar which adorns their metropolis shall stand, so long will the names of their fellow-citizens who have been instrumental in effecting the object be held in respectful and affectionate remembrance.

"It would be doing great injustice to our own feelings, and the deserts of those gentlemen, if we did not offer thanks on the part of the community to the late Robert Gilmor, Esq., as

President, to the late David Winchester, Esq., as Treasurer, and to Fielding Lucas, Jr., Esq., with the other managers of the monument, for the able and efficient manner in which they have discharged their arduous and responsible duties, the only reward for which is to be found in the approbation of their countrymen. Should the brief notice here taken of this ornament to our country, serve to awaken in the minds of our young readers a desire to imitate the virtues of him who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," our object will be fully attained."

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT, BALTIMORE.

CEREMONY OF LAYING THE CORNER-STONE.

The *corner-stone* of the monument to WASHINGTON was laid with public honors on the 4th day of July, 1815, and in the thirty-ninth year of the Declaration of American Independence.

The ceremonies were of the most imposing character. The entire civil and military population of Baltimore turned out on this interesting occasion; the city was literally emptied of its inhabitants to witness the joyous scene of laying the *first stone of the first monument* dedicated to "The Father of his Country."

The patriotism and enthusiasm of its citizens were lauded throughout the Union, animating every heart in the Republic with zeal in the cause. What a glorious day was that for the *Monumental City!* It seemed to infuse new vigor into its citizens, and to unite them as one man to establish for it a name to live among the most distinguished of its sister cities. The morning of the day was ushered in by the roar of cannon; not only the "star spangled banner" waved from every peak, both on land and water, but the flag of the stranger, from a foreign clime, was seen floating in the breeze; the whole city and surrounding country appeared in happy commotion. By 12 o'clock the assembled multitude met in Howard's Park, the spot selected for the erection of the Monument, where the managers of the work, in the presence of more than thirty thousand of their fellow-citizens, among whom were many of the fair daughters of Columbia, the reverend clergy, the President and members of the Cincinnati of Maryland, his Excellency the Governor of the State, R. W. G. M., and members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the Subordinate Lodges of Baltimore, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the officers of the Army and Navy, Major General R. G. Harper and aid, and the third brig-

ade of Maryland Militia, under the command of Brigadier General Sterrett proceeded to perform the pleasing duty assigned them by the Legislature of Maryland, of laying the first corner stone of a *Monument dedicated to the memory of the illustrious dead.*

In making the preparatory arrangements for laying the corner-stone of the monument to the memory of WASHINGTN, the managers directed their committee to request, in the first instance, the venerable and universally respected Archbishop Carroll, to commence the ceremony, by invoking a blessing on the undertaking, not only on account of his high ecclesiastical rank, but as having been the cotemporary and intimate friend of that illustrious man ; but as he was at a distance from the city, the wishes of the managers were conveyed to him in a letter from the reverend Mr. Fenwick, who received in reply the following answer, which we take pleasure in being permitted to communicate to the public:

"You will not fail to present immediately my very respectful and grateful acknowledgments to Mr. Gilmor, and through him to the gentlemen of the committee, for the distinguished honor done me by their choice of me, as the person designated to open the august ceremony of the 4th of July, and remind our countrymen of the only true sources of real honor and glory, the moral, civil, and military virtues of that illustrious man, whose monument will that day begin to be raised, which even without the aid of marble, remains undefaced and imperishable in the hearts of his fellow-citizens, though it is likewise worthy of all praise to exhibit grand and solid testimonials of national gratitude to eminent benefactors. These are my sincere feelings on the present occasion, and with pride would I obey a call which honors me so much; though at all times it would exceed my power to do it justice, but now more particularly, at my advanced period of life, and with a half extinguished voice, I must unavoidably fall so much below the solemnity of the occasion and public expectation, that respect for the supereminent WASHINGTON, and for my fellow-citizens, compels me to offer my excuse to the committee, which you will do in my behalf, and in terms the most expressive of my respect, and my regret, for my inability to answer their politeness with a ready compliance."

In an elevated position, near the spot prepared for the work, was exhibited a splendid painting of the departed hero and sage, an original portrait, executed from life by that distinguished artist, Rembrandt Peale, Esq.*

Immediately under the picture was a correct and beautiful representation of the facade of the monument to be erected, as designed by Mr. Robert Mills, the architect, painted by Mr. Henry Warren. These were all richly decorated by Mr. Hugh Findly, forming together, with the elegant banners and flags, guns, drums, &c., of the attending volunteer companies, an appropriate trophy for the occasion.

The day was peculiarly auspicious. Providence seemed to smile upon the people, and to propitiate the act about to be performed, expressive of their gratitude to one who was the chosen instrument in his hands of elevating this nation, whom he had so signally preserved, to a standing with other nations, and o the establishment of a liberal Government, distinguishing them as the most favored people under the canopy of Heaven. What an occasion of deep interest was here. The silence and order observed by the vast assembly present manifested the glad influence pervading every heart.

The last minute gun had scarcely reverberated its deep toned voice among the circling hills and venerable oaks surrounding the spot, when the whole multitude rose simultaneously, actuated, it would seem, by one spirit, to join in the ceremonie about to be commenced. After a salute of thirty-nine guns, commemorative of the number of years which was on that day completed since this great nation resolved to be free, accompanied by music from a volunteer band of amateurs, (led by Mr. Bunyie,) which played some national airs, concluding with Washington's Grand March, the President of the Board of Managers, James A. Buchanan, Esq., rose and thus addressed the audience:

"The distinguished honor, my fellow-citizens, of presiding on this interesting occasion, has devolved upon me, in conse-

*This portrait had been pronounced by many of the relatives and personal friends of Washington, to be the most accurate resemblance of the General extant; (it now decorates the Senate Chamber of the United States at Washington, having been purchased from the artist by the Government.)

quence of the death of my predecessor, the founder and first President of the Board of Managers, John Comegys, to whom, more than to any member of the Board, more indeed, than to all the other members of the Board, is to be ascribed whatever there may be of merit in the procuring for our city the glory of being the first to erect a monument of gratitude to the father and benefactor of our country.

"And, my fellow-citizens, is it not with peculiar propriety that this first expression of national gratitude should be made in the city of Baltimore? at all times the first to evince its attachment to those republican institutions, to secure which was the great object of WASHINGTON'S labors. Baltimore has at no time been backward with testimonials of her love and gratitude towards him. When she saw him elevated to the highest honors in the gift of his country, Baltimore was among the first to approach him with her homage. 'The tokens of regard and affection,' said he, 'which I have often received from the citizens of this town were always acceptable, because I always believed them sincere.'

"When, descending from his exalted station, he relinquished his power, and sought for happiness in the bosom of retirement, the first to thank him for his services, and regret his departure, was Baltimore. In reply to an address, presented to him on that occasion, by the city, he observed—'I pray you to accept of my sincere thanks, for the evidence you have now given, of approbation of my past services; for those regrets which you have expressed, on the occasion of my retirement to private life, and for the affectionate attachment which you have declared for my person.'* If these be sufficient to establish, in Baltimore,

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*_Address of the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Baltimore, to his excellency George Washington, late President of the United States, March_ 11, 1797.

SIR: To partake of the prosperity arising from your unwearied attentions to the welfare of our country; to admire that firmness which has never been disconcerted in the greatest difficulties, and which has acquired vigor in proportion to the exigency; to feel that honorable ascendency you have obtained in the well founded opinion of your fellow-citizens, by a wise administration, and the exercise of the virtues of a private life; and to suppress our admiration and acknowledgment, would be

a priority of claim to the hallowed services of this day, recent interesting events, of which she was the theatre, lean powerfully in support of them. During the war in which we have been engaged, the city destined to bear the proud name of WASHINGTON to future ages, fell an easy conquest to the ruthless invader. The shock produced by this stroke was felt from the one end of these United States to the other. The minds of our countrymen appeared to be transfixed with horror and dismay; a night of awful darkness seemed to overshadow our land; the gloomiest apprehensions were entertained for the republic; the timid and the desponding, not recollecting that freedom rises with an elasticity proportionate to the pressure made

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wanting to our own individual sensation, and the just expectation of those we represent.

Permit, therefore, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, amongst the first exercises of their corporate capacity, to gratify themselves, and their constituents, in the sincere expressions of regret for your retirement; their lively gratitude for your public services; their affectionate attachment to your private character; their heartfelt farewell to your person and family; and their increasing solicitude for your temporal and eternal happiness.

In behalf of the Corporation and City of Baltimore.

JAMES CALHOUN, *Mayor.*

His excellency returned the following answer to the Mayor and City of Baltimore.

GENTLEMEN: I receive, with grateful sensibility, the honor of your address.

To meet the plaudits of my fellow-citizens, for the part I have acted in public life, is the highest reward, next to the consciousness of having done my duty to the utmost of my abilities, of which my mind is susceptible; and I pray you to accept my sincere thanks for the evidences you have now given me, of your approbation of my past services, for those regrets which you have expressed on the occasion of my retirement to private life, and for the affectionate attachment you have declared for my person. Let me reciprocate, most cordially, all the good wishes you have been pleased to extend to me and my family for our temporal and eternal happiness.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

upon it, were approaching a state of political despair. At this most awful moment for our country, Baltimore, the city of our affection, in which was contained our altars, our families, our all, became the next object of attack to a vindictive, and *at that time*, a vainglorious foe. The eyes of all America were fixed upon us! On the destiny of Baltimore seemed to be suspended the fate of the republic. She breasted the storm; and, thanks to her gallant defenders, exists now, in prosperity and glory, to perform her most grateful of duties.

"The desire, my fellow-citizens, of perpetuating the memory of illustrious men, has prevailed in every age of the world. The ingenuity of men has been exercised, as well in his rudest, as in his most polished condition, in devising methods by which effectually to gratify this desire. The song of the poet, the pen of the historian, the pencil of the painter, the chissel of the sculptor, all have, in every age, been employed to render their fame imperishable. It has, indeed, been sometimes said, that the only monument real excellence requires, is an existence in the recollection of those who have been blessed by its operation: and that in the gratitude of posterity, it has its best reward. It would be superflous, under present circumstances, to inquire into the correctness of this sentiment. We have taken the sense of mankind, as exhibited in immemorial usage for our guide; and, I therefore proceed to state, that we are assembled here, my fellow-citizens, to lay the corner stone of a monument, intended to commemorate the virtues of our great WASHINGTON; of the hero and the sage who was 'first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.' On an occasion so grand, so interesting, it might perhaps be expected, that some notice should be taken of 'the services of the mighty dead;' but when we recollect that the world is filled with his glory, and that its radiance shines with a lustre which requires no aid from eulogy, I feel relieved from a task which it would have been the height of presumption for *me* to have undertaken.

"With these few observations, my fellow citizens, more than which I have not believed to be necessary, and less than which would not have satisfied my own impressions of duty, allow me to solicit your devout attention to the next feature of our arrangement, which is to invoke the blessings of Almighty God on the purpose for which we are now assembled."

INVOCATION BY THE RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP KEMP:

"O God! in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Every good thing that we enjoy here, we derive from thee, and every good thing that we hope for hereafter, thou alone canst bestow.

"We acknowledge, with deep humility, that we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts; that we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and that we have left undone those things we ought to have done; and that there is no spiritual health in us. Pardon, O merciful father, our manifold transgressions; purify our hearts from every defilement, and grant us grace, to enable us to devote our hearts and our lives more particularly to thy service.

"We magnify and adore thee, the Supreme Ruler of nations, for the many and distinguished blessings which we enjoy, as a people, for the liberty, prosperity, and happiness, which we have derived from that memorable *act*, whose anniversary has again rolled round! On this day let every heart expand with gratitude and joy—let it be distinguished by our citizens as the commencement of a new era in the history of nations, when a great and extensive empire rose into existence; when the Supreme Being opened a way for the rapid dissemination of liberty, learning, and religion, over an uncultivated wilderness, ameliorating the condition of man, and spreading light and salvation through a wide extended land. O God! for these blessings give us grace to be duly thankful.

"In particular we come before thee, at this time, to implore a blessing on our present undertaking; and that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name: may perpetuate and extend those principles, upon which depend our happiness here and hereafter.

"May this Monument, whose corner stone we are now about to deposit, stand as a memorial of the blessings and advantages that our country derived from the character and conduct of that personage whose name it is to bear, and whose virtues it is to perpetuate. May it excite in us those noble affections that will entitle us to the continuance of his favor, who is the author of every good and perfect gift; may we view it as a continued monitor, to emulate the virtues and to follow the example of him, whose character implies *everything that is great*. 'O let our hearts, and all that is within us, praise the Lord for his goodness.'

"Let the soldier, when he views this monument, remember, that America requires he should form his character upon the model of WASHINGTON; that he should combine bravery with prudence; courage with humanity; the service of his God with the service of his country.

"Let the statesman here learn the important lesson, that integrity is the rule by which all his plans are to be measured; honesty the scale in which all his schemes are to be weighed; that religion is the only base on which the happiness of a nation can stand secure; and that true patriotism consists in that ardent love of our country, which excites to originate and promote measures to dispense the blessings of freedom, justice, and plenty, among all descriptions of citizens.

"Let the private citizen, when he looks upon this Monument, remember that it is erected in memory of a man who was an ornament to private life as well as public; who, to the bravery of a soldier and the integrity of a statesman, added the virtues of an affectionate husband, a kind neighbor, an useful citizen, and a pious christian.

"O God! as it pleased thee to appoint the rainbow, as a token that the earth should not again be destroyed by a flood, so may this monument remain as a token that America must not be deluged by sin; that the land of WASHINGTON must not be torn by faction or ruined by vice; that no domineering tyrant shall raise his head on this soil, or the happiness of our citizens be sacrificed at the shrine of ambition.

"To this Monument let the father lead his son, and tell him, that to be great he must possess the virtues and the principles of him to whose memory it is dedicated.

"On this Monument, O God, may we all look as a reproof of sin, and an encouragement to virtue—as the ark of independence, the model of patriotism, and the reward of greatness—and may it be happily instrumental in inspiring our hearts with noble sentiments, in elevating our souls above mean pursuits, and in preparing us to share in the everlasting rewards of all those who love God, who trust in a redeemer, and whose souls are adorned by the noble qualities of pure christians.

"These, our prayers, we offer unto thee in the name and through the merits of our blessed Redeemer; to whom, with thee and the holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end—Amen."

The President, accompanied by the Board of Managers, then descended to the place where the corner stone was suspended, and by their Secretary invited His Excellency Levi Winder, R. W. G. M. of Masons, Colonel John E. Howard, President, and General S. Smith, Vice President of the Cincinnati, and Edward Johnson, Mayor of the City of Baltimore, to witness the laying of the stone. To whom, when assembled, the President made the following address:

"I have, gentlemen, been requested by the Board of Managers, to ask your participation with them on this interesting occasion; and, worshipful sir, (addressing the R. W. G. Master,) to present you with these implements, (handing the square, plumb, and level,) used by your ancient fraternity, with which you will be pleased to proceed and ascertain the fitness of this stone."

The R. W. G. Master replied, "Honorable sir, on behalf of the free and accepted masons of this State, I accept with pleasure your invitation, and it will afford us peculiar satisfaction to render all the assistance within our power, so that the stone may be laid agreeably to the ancient usages of the order; especially, as the object of the building to be erected is to hand down to the latest posterity the virtues and patriotism of the greatest of men; who, during his valuable life, honored our order by becoming a zealous and faithful member of the fraternity."

His Excellency, the R. W. G. Master, then proceeded to try the fitness of the stone; and, addressing the President, pronounced the same "true and trusty."

The Architect, assisted by Messrs. William Steuart and Thomas Towson, the operative masons, under the direction of the President, placed the stone in its proper position.

The Secretary then deposited in the stone a copper plate, and a sealed glass bottle containing a likeness of WASHINGTON. his valedictory address, the several newspapers printed in this city, and the different coins of the United States. On the stone was engraved—

"WILLIAM STEUART

AND

THOMAS TOWSON,

STONE CUTTERS.

SATER STEVENSON,

STONE MASON."

On the plate was engraved—

ON THE 4TH OF JULY, A. D., 1815,

WAS LAID THIS

FOUNDATION STONE

OF A

MONUMENT,

TO BE ERECTED TO THE

MEMORY

OF

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Reverse side of the plate.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN COMEGYS,	WASHINGTON HALL,
JAMES A. BUCHANAN,	LEMUEL TAYLOR,
ROBERT GILMOR, Jr.	GEORGE HOFFMAN,
ISAAC M'KIM,	EDWARD J. COALE,
WM. H. WINDER,	JAMES PARTRIDGE,
DAVID WINCHESTER,	NICHOLAS C. RIDGELY,
FIELDING LUCAS, Jr.	ROBERT MILLER,
JAMES CALHOUN, Jr.	NATHANIEL F. WILLIAMS,
JAMES COCKE,	LEVI HOLLINGSWORTH,
JOHN FRICK,	WILLIAM GWYNN,
JAMES WILLIAMS,	B. H. MULLIKEN,

JAMES BARROLL.

ELI SIMKINS, *Secretary.*

ROBERT MILLS, *Architect.*

EDWARD JOHNSON, *Mayor.*

The Site presented by Col. JOHN EAGER HOWARD.

The President, accompanied by the R. W. G. Master, the President and Vice-President of the Cincinnati, and the Mayor of the city, proceeded and settled the stone. The Grand Master then pronounced—"May the Grand Architect of the universe grant a blessing on this foundation stone, which we have now laid, and by his providence enable us to finish this and every other work which may be undertaken for the benefit of the republic and the perpetuity of our free institutions."

The R. W. G. Master then received, severally, the vessels containing corn, wine, and oil, and addressed the President—"Sir, as the scattering of corn, and the pouring out of wine and oil, on such occasions, are a part of our ancient ceremonies, with your assent I will perform that duty." The President signified his assent, when the Grand Master scattered the corn, and poured out the wine and oil on the stone, saying, "May the all bountiful author of nature bless this city with an abundance of corn, wine, and oil, and with all the necessaries, conveniences, and comforts, of life; and may the same Almighty Power preserve this city from ruin and decay to the latest posterity."

The R. W. G. Master, then addressing the Rev. John Hargrove, Grand Chaplain, said, "Have we here the first and greatest light of masonry?"

He replied, "it is in my hand, R. W."

The R. W. G. Master again asked, "What instructions does it give on this occasion?"

The Grand Chaplain read the following select passages from the holy writings:

"Thus, saith the Lord God, behold I lay in Zion, for a foundation, a *stone*, a *tried stone*, a precious *corner-stone*, a sure foundation, &c.

"Judgment also will I lay to the line and righteousness unto the plummet."—*Isaiah* xxviii *ch.* 16 and 17 *v.*

"For behold the stone which I have laid before Joshua: upon one stone shall be seven eyes. Behold I will engrave the engraving thereof, with the LORD OF HOSTS."—*Zach.* iii *ch.* 9 *v.*

"Bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

"Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.

"The Lord that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion."—*Psalm* cxxxiv.

Grand honors by the masons.

The President then addressed Mr. Mills*—

"The managers, appointed by the Legislature of Maryland to superintend the erection of this Monument, intended to hand down to the latest generation, the love of country, the disin-

*Mr. Robert Mills, the Architect, is a native of Charleston, South Carolina, and has the honor of being the first American educated architect.

terestedness, the valor, and the patriotism of one of the greatest and best of men that ever lived in any age, having the most unbounded confidence in your skill and integrity as an architect, do now entrust you with these symbols, (handing the S. P. and L.) by which you are to prosecute, according to that design, (pointing to a representation of the Monument, as designed by Mr. Mills, painted by Mr. Warren,) a Monument which may do honor to yourself as an architect, as well as those who have confided in you, and be in some degree commensurate with its object."

Mr. Mills replied—

"The honor, sir, you have been pleased to confer upon me, I hope to prove that I duly appreciate, by a faithful performance of the duties incumbent on me as your architect.

"I feel a double inducement to use my best exertions to execute faithfully, and with ability, the important duty entrusted to me, from the recollection that the work to be performed is the execution of a monument to perpetuate our country's gratitude to *the father of her liberties;* and that you have given a preference to native talent in the choice of a design for the work."

Valedictory by the Rev. Dr. Inglis:

"*Sovereign of nations*, whose throne is the only throne before which our free Republic bows herself! If we know our own hearts, it is our delight to do thee homage as our monarch, our judge, and our God. We give thee thanks, that at length the foul blot of reproach is effaced from the public name, and that a splendid memorial of the people's gratitude is at length about to be reared, to tell to the world that honor is due from them, and shall be paid to the brave, the just, and the good, to their chief, their benefactor, and their father.

"What people has ever had such cause of gratitude to thee, as this people? For what people, except of old, for thy chosen tribes, whom thou ledst through the wilderness to a land of rest, of plenty, prosperity, and glory hast thou ever done such deeds of wonder, as for this people? And of all thy multitudinous blessings bestowed upon us, we esteem it not the least, that thou didst give us the achievements and the example of thine eminent servant, whose spirit is now in other worlds, but whose happy memory lives undecayingly in our affections, and to the honor of whose transcendent character this monu-

mental fabrick is devoted; thy servant, 'first in war—first in peace—and first in the hearts of his countrymen'—thy servant, the delight of an admiring world, 'whose country is the universe—whose fame is eternity.' We thank thee that thou didst form and adapt his mind to the crisis which called him into action—to the exigencies of the eventful times during which he exercised his exalted talents and his no less exalted virtues. For while we cherish the name and memory of our glorious chief, we humbly and thankfully acknowledge that every perfect gift, whether of goodness or of greatness, cometh down from above; from thee, O fountain of excellence; from thee, O father of lights; with whom is no variableness or shadow of turning!

"We thank thee that this great man lived not in vain, and that his precious example has not been lost upon the people before whose eyes it shines. The wounds of those brave men who have survived the shock of recent battles on no distant fields, whose patience and fortitude, under the privations and exposures of war, whose self-denial, whose contempt of danger, and whose martial ardor, drove back the unsuccessful hosts of invasion to their ships, attest that the example of his valor and his patriotism has not been lost upon us. The annunciations of victory by our laurelled commanders, when the blood of the brave dyed the waters of the lakes, attest that the example of his modesty and his piety, has not shone upon us in vain. They attest, that, like him, the intrepid leader and the warrior, who, with firm and faithful step, advances to the onset, forgets not, amidst the pomp and circumstance of war, that God is the Lord of Hosts, to whom all might and all success are to be ascribed.

"On this occasion, and at this sacred spot, may we be enabled to look back with gratitude uponthe past, and forward upon the future, with hope, confidence and courage. Thou who didst accomplish this unparalleled man with rich gifts for war and peace. that he might go in and out before this so great people, will not forsake the country that gave him birth, and where his ashes lie. To thy blessing we solemnly commend its institutions and its interests. This day, the anniversary of that proud day which gave us national existence; of that glorious day, when first independence thundered from the Senate Hall, and scattered its lightening from the sword of the chief

along the thorny and ensanguined pathway, that, under the auspices of Omnipotence, led, in the event, to victory and to peace; this day, this joyful day, we invoke thy blessing. Bless these assembled multitudes; bless this flourishing and growing city, ever favored by thy smiles, and of late signally protected by thy providence. Bless the State, of which it is the ornament, our Governor and public functionaries; bless the United States of America, united indissolubly; free and independent perpetually; God save the republic, which himself hath formed to be the refuge of freedom—never, O never, of freedom, may it prove the grave! Bless the President of the United States and all in authority; and grant that, under their administration, the people may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty.

"Sovereign of nations, author of all good, patron and rewarder of integrity, patriotism, and valor, we supplicate thy benediction upon the interesting solemnity of this day; deign to smile upon the deed which has been done, and to accept it. For while this monumental structure shall present to the beholder the emblematic register of glory, shall it not proclaim the obligations of the republic to Him who formed her general for the field, her ruler for the cabinet? O may this memorial of our dead friend and father speak in tones of deep interest to all his children. May it lead them to remember every particular of his moral, civic, and military virtue. Let the believer remember that our chief venerated the rites of religion and the name of God. Let the citizen remember, that our chief bowed to the supremacy of the laws, and gloried in rendering prompt obedience to the voice of constituted authority. Let the soldier remember that our chief fought because freedom, and truth, and virtue, and conscience, armed him; that his sword would have refused to leave its scabbard in an unholy cause, and that he never could have been induced by seduction or provocation to turn its point against the maternal bosom of his country. Let successive Presidents, Commanders, Magistrates, Counsellors, and all depositaries of power, remember that our chief sought not, in any one instance, *himself*, but at all times *his country's weal.*

"Save Lord, save this fabric of the people's gratitude; this structure to the blessed memory of our national father and benefactor, consecrated by the recollections, the sensibilities, and the prayers of his children. O save it from destructive casualties;

protect it against the mouldering touch of time; and at what period soever the clangor of arms may again disturb our peaceful pursuits, let us look on this splendid pile; let us ask, where is the spirit of the hero whose fame it perpetuates; let us emulate his deeds, and gather round the monument of our father; let us guard it with a no less resolved and unshrinking purpose than we would our altars and our homes!

"Almighty God, we believe that thou art never displeased with the expression of praise, where praise is due; we, therefore, deem it becoming us on this solemn occasion, to notice with tender recollection, the respectable, amiable, and patriotic person, to whose indefatigable labors, we, of this vicinity, are chiefly indebted for the honorable privilege of laying the first monumental stone sacred to the memory of the father of his country. In all patriotic offices, in all public works promotive of the interest of truth, virtue, benevolence, and liberty; grant that his example may be universally imitated with a perseverance and an enthusiasm worthy of the American citizen.

"Sovereign of nations; Almighty Creator; God of the spirits of all flesh; Father of our Saviour; by whose divine permission we have united in these exercises; listen, we beseech thee, to our thanksgiving and supplications, and favorably, in much mercy, be pleased to answer them—Amen.

"Men, brethren, and fellow-citizens—Jehovah bless you, and keep you—Jehovah make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you—Jehovah lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all—Amen."

Music. First solemn, then national.

Grand salute of one hundred guns, the band playing a national air.

The whole ceremonies of the day were concluded by three vollies from the whole line of infantry.

The evening sky was beautifully bespangled by rockets thrown from the Java frigate, and from the mansion of Col. Howard, in the park. They rose in a brilliant line of fire, and forming a graceful arch, broke into stars as they descended. Divine Providence seemed to smile upon the occasion; the air was delightfully cool and the firmanent serene. The evening silence and tranquility that closed the joyful turbulence of the day, formed a striking contrast, and seemed to display that sobriety of pleasure which the solemnity of the occasion demanded.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

Soon after the laying of the corner-stone of the Monument, preparations were made to progress the work without delay; every precaution was taken in laying the foundations, which were composed of large stone laid in solid masses; these were all raised to the level of the grade of the square, during the first working season. The succeeding year, the sub-foundations of the column and the walls of the marble zocle or grand base were raised to the springing of the gallery vaults within. The following year the finished work of the column was elevated to half its height. The fourth year's operations raised the column high enough to receive its capital. The fifth year capped the the shaft and zocle base, and raised to its height, the pedestal surmounting the whole, which was to receive the statue. Here operations were suspended for a time, and the work allowed to attain that solidity which was necessary, preparatory to receiving its colossal statue. In 1824 the scaffolding around the Monument was removed, and the column displayed in honor of the visit to Baltimore, of the friend of WASHINGTON, the venerated LA FAYETTE. In 1826, the marble terrace or roof over the grand base was laid, and soon after the marble steps to the four entrances of the same erected. In 1835, the lower terrace, formed of marble slabs, and the footways around the grand base, of granite slabs, together with the marble plinth, for receiving the iron railing, were laid, as also the tessalated marble pavement inside of the Monument. In 1836, the rich iron palisade fence, with its ornamented gates, enclosing the whole Monument, were put up, as also the tripods upon the blockings of the steps of entrance, and the bronze inscriptions upon the four facades of the grand base.

Thus far this work has progressed; its completion, according to the original design, as approved by the Legislature of Maryland, and put upon its records, will depend upon its own acts making the necessary appropriations for the purpose. The trophies to surmount the four angles of the grand base are the principal features of the design yet to be completed, independent of the thirteen bronze shields, banding the foot of the shaft, which are to be enriched with the escutcheons and inscriptions of the glorious thirteen States which formed the Federal Union in 1776, crowned by festooned banners of the Union, as it now is, supported at each cardinal point, marked on the face of the

column by a spread eagle, and circled by a laurel wreath, denoting Victory. The broad frieze under the cornice of the grand base is to receive as many wreaths as there are States in the Confederacy, the name of each being inscribed within the wreath.

As far as the work has been completed, every description of material used was furnished in the neighborhood; the marble was obtained within nine to twelve miles of Baltimore, the foundation stone from Jones' falls, close by; the rich cast-iron railing from the Savage Factory foundry, twenty miles west of the city; the contractors for the marble and masonry work were all natives of Baltimore, and with what fidelity it has been executed may be judged of by the present stability of the structure after a lapse of thirty years.

THE STATUE.

In 1827 invitations were sent out by the Architect (according to the instructions of the Board of Managers of the Monument) to the most eminent artists of our own country to present models for the statue which was to surmount the column. Among those sent in, that of Caucici, (the talented artist who had previously been employed by the Government at Washington, to execute some of the sculptures in the Capitol,) was approved, and a contract entered into with him to complete the work agreeably to the Architect's design, and also to place it upon its pedestal on the summit of the column. A massive block of white marble, weighing upwards of thirty tons, was obtained from the quarries about twelve miles from Baltimore,* and Caucici, with all the zeal and industry which characterized the true artist, commenced the Herculean task of reducing this

*Dr. David D. Owen, in his report on the marble quarries in this neighborhood, says of this block, "At this locality (Mrs. Taylor's quarries) a block was got out upwards of seventeen feet long, which was presented to the Building Committee of the Washington Monument. Out of this block the statue on the same was sculptured." It was a remarkable fact that this block was found solitary and alone in the wide fields of this region, waiting, as it were, for the honors that were to be conferred on it. It was found exactly of the dimensions required for the statue.

mass of hard marble to half its weight, and bringing out of it the noble features and graceful person of the "Father of his Country." Two years of laborious toil brought his work to a close, and the day arrived when this mighty mass of sixteen tons was to be raised one hundred and sixty feet high, and safely placed upon its pedestal! The poor artist was often troubled, in the prospect of having to accomplish so responsible a duty. The burden of his mournful song, whilst at work in his studio, was heard to be, *one hundred and sixty feet high, one hundred and sixty feet high, one hundred and sixty feet high.* How was he to get this ponderous, precious mass placed in safety at this dizzy height? The Architect, Mr. Mills, relieved him from this responsibility, and made preparations for raising the statue. The scaffolding having been removed, the question then was agitated, how was this mass of matter to be elevated to that height, and poised as it were upon a point. Some were for erecting an inclined plane, upon which to *haul* it up; some to erect stage after stage, to hoist it upon. Either of these plans would have cost more than the whole amount the artist was to receive on his contract. But the Architect, when he decided upon removing the original scaffolding, had devised a plan for raising the statue, independent of all external scaffolding; simply by means of a suitable pair of shears erected on, and straddling the cap of the column itself. He was fortunate in engaging the services of an experienced nautical man, skillful in mechanical devices, Capt. John D. Woodside, of Washington city, and confiding to him his plan of operations, left it to his ingenuity and practical knowledge of machinery to carry out and perfect the same. The complete success which attended the operations proved the efficiency of the plan. Capt. Woodside was paid by the Architect the full amount of his contract. Not satisfied, however, with this, he petitioned the Legislature of Maryland for additional compensation, which was allowed him.

So formidable was considered the undertaking to raise this statue to its destined height, that, during preparations for the same, the Architect was perpetually cautioned by his friends to "*make the machinery strong enough*," "*spare no expense to insure safety.*" The whole city appeared to be deeply interested in the success of the undertaking. One of our most esteemed citizens, residing in a handsome house near the Monument, took the alarm, from the fears expressed by some of his

friends, that on the operation of hoisting the statue, there was danger of upsetting the column, and requested the Architect to confer with that eminent mathematician and engineer of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Capt. Long, (then in the city,) on the effect of the forces he was about to employ in this work, which he cheerfully did, and the result was such as to calm all his fears. The chief rigger, Capt. Woodside, displayed much judgment and mechanical knowledge in the use of his powers. 1st. He sent up a small pair of shears to the top of the capital of the column, by which he hoisted up and secured a forty feet length of derrick, with which he elevated the great derrick, seventy feet long and sixteen inches in diameter. This he secured firmly to the shaft by lashings of iron chains around the neck of the column, and by other stays. Every thing being well secured so far, the massive chain to form the stirrups were raised and thrown over and around the domical cap of the pedestal upon which the statue was to stand, preparatory to raising the great shears which were destined to hoist the statue. These immense shears, each leg being forty feet long, and forty-five inches girth, were lashed together on the ground, and thus, as a whole, raised by the great derrick, which towered fifty feet above the highest apex of the Monument, and placed with beautiful precision each leg in its stirrup. This was the last grand operation preparatory to elevating the statue. These surmounting shears were then braced by strong ropes or guys as stays, in every direction; and the venerable oaks around the Monument furnished the necessary ties here.

The Architect had given orders to one of the first rope-makers in Baltimore, (Mr. Ramsey,) to prepare new cordage, of the best quality, for the work, (the cost of which material exceeded $1,000,) and timbers of the soundest fibre were procured; he had previously obtained from the Secretary of the Navy the use of some large sheave blocks and chain cables, suited to the occasion; and last, not least, he had to calculate the strength and determine upon the dimensions of iron for the luis to which was to be suspended the weight of the whole stone, and upon the accuracy of which the safety of the whole depended.

When every part of the machinery was completed, Commodore Stewart, of the United States Navy, who was then in Baltimore, was invited to give his opinion of its strength and capacity for the work to be performed. His answer was charac-

teristic of the man, and proved the judgment and decision of this noble commander of our Navy: "If I had a seventy-four gun ship hitched to the end of this cable, sir, I would not be afraid to hoist it to the top of this Monument." Every caution was used to guard against accident, and to test the efficiency of the apparatus; the first block of seven tons, forming the lower part of the statue, was hoisited with perfect ease and safety to its place, without giving any public notice of the fact; and thus every part of the machinery was proved to work well, and insure success to the ascent of the other two blocks, the middle one of which was also raised under the same precautions. The public anxiety being now allayed, the day was fixed upon when the crowning block, which was to display the whole statue complete, was to be raised. The Architect therefore issued the following public notice of this event.

ELEVATION OF THE STATUE.

The public are respectfully invited to witness the final elevation of the Statue of Washington to the summit of the Monument this day at 12 o'clock, should the weather prove favorable, if not, on the first fair day after.

Seats are provided for the public authorities, adjoining those of the Managers of the Monument, fronting the works Seats are also provided for those venerable and honorable survivors of the Revolutionary war who may attend—and such are earnestly invited to witness this public expression of their country's gratitude, not only *to him* who led her armies to victory, and established her liberties upon a sure basis, but *through him*, to all those noble spirits who fought and bled under his banner.

ROBT. MILLS,
Architect of the Monument.

BALTIMORE, *November* 25, 1829.

Short as this notice was, the citizens turned out en masse, with the military, commanded by Brigadier General S. Smith, and took their station around the Monument to witness the triumph of their hopes. The morning of the day was at first shaded with clouds, but, by the hour appointed for the ceremony, they broke away; and while the dignified bust of "the Father of his Country" was slowly ascending, bright flashes of light at intervals shown around it; and when it had reached its destined place and joined the other portions of the figure, and

stood forth *the man* entire, the clouds dissolved in ether, and the sun broke forth in meridian splendor, filling the whole expanse with light and life, then could be seen soaring aloft and circling the spot where stood the statue, the glorious ensign of of our country's banner, the noble *Eagle*, as if conscious of what had taken place; and lo! high in mid heaven a brilliant star appears—come as it were to shed a glory around the act just consummated.* Shouts of joy now arose simultaneously from the surrounding multitude, and the deep toned cannon reverberated the sound to distant lands. *November* 25, 1829, has thus become a memorable day in the annals of Baltimore, commemorating, as it does, an event so important—the crowning of the work of a grateful people, commenced on the 4th of of July, 1815. Fourteen years of happy toil had rolled by, which was to accomplish this first offering; and thanks to a watchful Providence, no accident occurred in this long period to mar the glorious undertaking.

Some other emblematic decorations have yet to be added to this Monument before its final completion; and these in time will be done. The State of Maryland is pledged to do this, and the patriotic citizens of Baltimore will see that the original design of the Monument, as recorded by the Legislature of the State in their annals, is carried out to completion.

The machinery for raising the statue being all removed, and without accident or injury to the work, (which was apprehended by many,) the statue stood forth in all its grandeur. This statue is of Colossean proportions, 16 feet high, and weighing 35,000 lbs. The artist, in the attidude given to his figure, has represented that noble act in the life of General Washington, (which so strongly marks the exalted character of the man,) the resignation of his commission to the Congress of his country. This act having been consummated at Annapolis in this State makes its representation here peculiarly appropriate. The figure appears in the act of advancing with its right arm

*The appearance of the eagle and star on this occasion were facts witnessed by many on that day. And the architect of this work, on another occasion, witnessed the appearance of the same star (Venus) on laying the corner stone, with General La Fayette, at Camden, S. C., of the monument to the lamented General De Kalb, who fell in defence of our liberties.

stretched out, holding in the hand a scroll, and clothed in a military cloak, which, in the act of advancing, falls off the right shoulder, and exposes the epaullette. To prevent the cloak from falling entirely off, the left hand gathers up and draws the folds over and across the breast, and coming to a rest upon the hip, throws out the elbow, thus giving a fine breadth to the figure by this disposition of the cloak—the left leg is exposed, where the military boot is seen, and the nether end of the sword. The *tout ensemble* is noble and graceful; a sober dignity is spread over the whole figure, which is in perfect keeping with the character of WASHINGTON. The statue faces the South—the eye, as it were, directed to the very scene of the original act (Annapolis.)

The following criticism on the figure, written at the time of executing the statue, may be acceptable here :

THE COLOSSEAN STATUE OF WASHINGTON.—The great *desideratum in statuary* has been at length effected in the model of this great work, executed by Caucici, namely: to retain the *modern costume*, and yet not offend the *classic* eye. The model before us does this in an eminent degree; and it is now sincerely to be hoped that we shall hereafter never have occasion to clothe statues of our great men in the Roman garb, or Grecian robe, which estranges them completely in our eyes. When we look at the splendid statues of Canova and Chantry, which were intended to personify our WASHINGTON, we see in one the character of a Roman Senator, Consul, or Emperor, and in the other, an ancient Grecian sage philosopher; but nothing in either to remind us of our WASHINGTON. This is inadmissible, and a confession of a deficiency of genius which the artist would not wish to acknowledge, and a severe satire upon the understanding and good taste of the age.

The WASHINGTON which surmounts the colossal monumental column erected in this city, was always intended by the architect to be attired in the style of costume which would familiarize us with the man, being satisfied that this might be done, and still retain all that classic effect, which is so necessary to be retained, and which has for centuries, chained us down to the use of the Roman toga, &c. and the Grecian robe. The idea was offered in the light of a problem by the architect to all the artists engaged to present models for the Statue, to be solved by them. For *effect* the military cloak was to be introduced, the

ample folds of which could not fail to insure, to the artist possessing genius and good taste, success, to give grace and dignity to his figure. Mr. Caucici has succeeded to admiration in his WASHINGTON. The *tout ensemble* of the figure is all that we could wish, and creates a confidence that posterity will award us praise for a departure from the established forms and prejudices of the old school, and daring to think for ourselves in matters of taste in the fine arts, as well as in matters of mild government and in politics. The fine expression and benignity in the face of this figure, the graceful, modest manner of presenting the parchment scroll containing the commission, and the noble mein of the whole person, strike the view of the beholder with surprise and pleasure, and the whole character of the man seems developed before him. The attitude of the figure is that of *advancing*, the arm extended holds in the hand a scroll in a position the most easy, graceful, and natural, nothing forced, or expressive of mean submission, but the voluntary act of the man. The military cloak thrown over the figure, seems falling off the right shoulder on the extension of the arm, whilst the left hand, to prevent as it were the cloak's falling entirely off, has grasped that side of the same, and drawing it across the lower part of the person, throws itself for support against the body, behind. The position thus given the left arm affords a beautiful display of drapery on this side, the cloak falling in graceful folds almost down to the feet. The falling off of the cloak from the right shoulder gives a full display of all that part of the modern military dress worn during the revolutionary war, at which the rigid eye of classic taste would not take offence. The epaulet of that period stands fully complete on the right shoulder, and a small portion of the other seen on the left, which designate the military grade of the person. The head is uncovered, and while it is confessed by all who have seen it, and to whom WASHINGTON was personally known, to be that of this great man in form and feature, it is a classic head, or a head in unison with the rest of the figure. That benign firmness which characterised WASHINGTON'S countenance is here finely expressed, and a dignified gravity overspreads the whole face, expressive of deep thought, and perfect self-command.

This model may with propriety be said to represent the first real WASHINGTON that has yet been sculptured.

It will be interesting here to revert to that period when this glorious transaction typified by the Statue took place. Previously to that august spectacle, a circumstance had taken place, still more affecting perhaps. On the fourth of December, 1783, WASHINGTON took leave of his officers at New York. This interview occurred at Frances' tavern in that city, where the principal officers assembled at noon, soon after which, says his biographer, their beloved commander entered the room. With emotion too strong to be concealed, he filled a glass and said, "with a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you; I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable." Having drunk, he added, "I cannot come to each of you to take my leave, but shall be obliged to you, if each of you will come and take me by the hand." General KNOX, being nearest, turned to him. Incapable of utterance, WASHINGTON grasped his hand and embraced him. In the same affectionate manner, he took leave of each succeeding officer. In every eye was the tear of dignified sensibility; and not a word was articulated to interrupt the majestic silence and the tenderness of the scene. Leaving the room, he passed through the corps of light infantry, and walked to Whitehall, where a barge waited to convey him to Powles' Hook. The whole company followed in mute and solemn procession, with dejected countenances, testifying feelings of delicious melancholy, which no language can describe. Having entered the barge, he turned to the company, and waving his hat, bade them a silent adieu. They paid him the same affectionate compliment, and after the barge had left them, returned in the same solemn manner to the place where they had assembled.

Congress, says Marshall, was then in session at Annapolis, in Maryland, to which place General Washington repaired for the purpose of resigning into their hands the authority with which they had invested him. He arrived on the 19th of December. The next day he informed that body of his intention to ask leave to resign the commission he had the honor of holding in their service, and requested to know whether it would be their pleasure that he should offer his resignation in writing, or at an audience.

To give the more dignity to the act, they determined that it should be offered at a public audience on the following Tuesday, 23d December, at 12 o'clock.

When the hour arrived for performing a ceremony so well calculated to recall to the mind the various interesting scenes which had passed since the commission now to be returned was granted, the gallery was crowded with spectators; and many respectable persons, among whom were the legislative and executive characters of the State, several general officers, and the consul general of France, were admitted on the floor of Congress. Congress received him as the founder and guardian of the republic. While he appeared before them, they silently retraced the scenes of danger and distress through which they had passed together. They recalled to mind the blessings of freedom and peace purchased by his arm. They gazed with wonder on their fellow-citizen who appeared more great and worthy of esteem in resigning his power, than he had done in gloriously using it. Every heart was big with emotion. Tears of admiration and gratitude burst from every eye. The general sympathy was felt by the resigning hero and wet his cheek with a manly tear. The representatives of the sovereignty of the Union, resumes Marshall, remained seated and covered. The spectators were standing and uncovered. The general was introduced by the secretary, and conducted to a chair. After a decent interval, silence was commanded, and a short pause ensued. The President, (General Mifflin,) then informed him that "The United States in Congress assembled were prepared to receive his communications." With a native dignity, improved by the solemnity of the occasion, the general rose and delivered the following address.

"Mr. President: The great events, on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honor of offering my sincere congratulations to Congress, and of presenting myself before them to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country.

"Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable nation, I resign, with satisfaction, the appointment I accepted with diffidence; a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which, however, was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

"The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest.

"While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge, in this place, the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the war. It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. Permit me, sir, to recommend in particular, those who have continued in the service to the present moment, as worthy of the favorable notice and patronage of Congress.

"I consider it as an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them, to his holy keeping.

"Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life."

Washington then advanced to the chair of the president, and delivered him his commission. (In Mr. Causici's statue he is represented in the act of doing this.) He then returned to his place and received standing the following answer of Congress, which was delivered by the President:

"Sir: The United States in Congress assembled, receive, with emotions too affecting for utterance, the solemn resignation of the authorities under which you have led their troops with success through a perilous and a doubtful war.

"Called upon by your country to defend its invaded rights, you accepted the sacred charge, before it had formed alliances, and whilst it was without funds or a government to support you.

"You have conducted the great military contest with wisdom and fortitude, invariably regarding the rights of the civil power through all disasters and changes. You have by the love and confidence of your fellow-citizens, enabled them to display their martial genius, and transmit their fame to posterity. You have persevered, until these United States, aided by a magnanimous king and nation, have been enabled, under a just Providence, to

close the war in freedom, safety, and independence; on which happy event, we sincerely join you in congratulations.

"Having defended the standard of liberty in this new world—having taught a lesson useful to those who inflict, and to those who feel oppression, you retire from the great theatre of action, with the blessings of your fellow-citizens; but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command—it will continue to animate remotest ages.

"We feel, with you, our obligations to the army in general, and will particularly charge ourselves with the interests of those confidential officers who have attended your person to this affecting moment.

"We join you in commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, beseeching him to dispose the hearts and minds of its citizens to improve the opportunity afforded them of becoming a happy and respectable nation. And for you, we address to him our earnest prayers, that a life so beloved, may be fostered with all his care; that your days may be as happy as they have been illustrious; and that he will finally give you that reward which this world cannot give."

This scene being closed, a scene rendered peculiarly interesting by the personages who appeared in it, by the great events it recalled to the memory, and by the singularity of the circumstances under which it was displayed, the American chief withdrew from the hall of Congress, leaving the silent and admiring spectators deeply impressed with those sentiments which its solemnity and dignity were well calculated to inspire.

DESCRIPTION OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT AS COMPLETED.

The main feature in the design for this structure presents the character of a Greek Doric column, of massive proportions, elevated on a grand base or zocle: the column surmounted by a circular pedestal, on which stands a colossean statue of the Father of his Country, the whole executed in white marble. The grand base is 50 feet square and 25 feet high—the column 20 feet in diameter at the foot, and with its sub base 180 feet high. It stands on an elevated hill 100 feet above the tide, at the intersection of four principal avenues, and in the centre of

a square 200 feet each way; the avenues to the south and north are 110 feet wide, 30 feet of which are to be laid out as a *promenade* to the monument, enclosed, and planted with shrubbery, leaving 80 feet for carriage ways, &c. on each side. The entire structure is of white marble, obtained within twelve miles of Baltimore. The material of which the base of the zocle is constructed was presented by General Ridgley from his quarries, 9 miles from Baltimore, the residue of the marble was procured three miles further up. It is of the most durable quality, and rather bleaches than discolors after a lapse of years. The marble work was executed by those eminent marble masons and cutters, Cols. Wm. Stewart and Thos. Towson, both natives of Baltimore, the stone masonry was constructed by Mr. Luther Stevenson, the brick inside by Mr. Stallings, citizens also of Baltimore, all faithful workmen, as their work testifies after the lapse of thirty years. The block courses of marble were all bedded on sheet lead and clamped together with copper, and the horizontal outer joints exposed filled in with lead. After the column had been raised to the height of the capital, the guage by which it was worked lost but half an inch in the whole heighth, which proved the solidity of the work as it was carried up. The massive blocks of marble which make up the Abacus and Echinus of the capital, forming by their bold projection a terrace and enclosed walk over the same, were admirably put together, and stand unmoved to this day. The foundations of this structure were deeply laid in the ground, at least 16 feet below the natural surface of the hill on which it stands, and to bind the whole mass together, a heavy iron grating, rivetted together, was laid over the entire bed of solid masonry under the column. A well was previously dug 60 feet deep in the neighborhood of the foundation, to test the character of the under strata, which exhibited the same firmness of soil the whole depth. This well (having reached the water) was made serviceable to the work afterwards, and is that now in use on the N. E. side of the structure. The monument is encircled with a massive bronzed iron railing 314 feet in circumference, opening on the four fronts of the grand base by rich iron gateways. The design of the railing is in character with the whole, being composed of shields, facial columns, and spears. This beautiful piece of work was cast at the Savage factory foundry in the neighborhood, and though difficult of execution, (being

circular in plan,) is a first rate work. The railing stands on a marble base two feet high ; a flag-stone pavement extends outside of this 10 feet wide, all around ; on the inside, between the railing and monument, is also a marble terrace. On every front of the grand base, a flight of marble steps, flanked by massive blocks of the same material, surmounted by tripods, lead up to bronze door-ways in marble casings, which open into vaulted galleries surrounding the lower base of the column. The floors of these galleries are laid with marble slabs, forming a beautiful tesselated pavement, the whole lighted from above. A broad frieze runs round the exterior wall of the grand base, immediately under the main cornice, which is to receive a series of civic wreaths encircling the names of all the States forming the Union. In the centre of this freize on each front above the door-ways are large marble tablets inscribed in bronzed letters, "To GEORGE WASHINGTON, by the State of Maryland." On each side of the doors on each front are the following bronze inscriptions :

1st. On the South. "Born 22d February, 1732. Died 14th December, 1799."

2d. On the East. "Commander-in-Chief of the American Army June 25, 1775. Resigned his Commission at Annapolis 23d December, 1783."

3d. North side. "Trenton 25th December, 1776. Yorktown 19th October, 1781."

4th. West side. "President of the United States 4th March, 1789. Retired to Mt. Vernon 4th March, 1797."

Over the main cornice, a blocking course runs round the base, to be crowned at the four angles with military and civic trophies, and marble bronze inscriptions are proposed to enrich the shaft of the column above the grand base. The following is that proposed by the architect :

FAMA. NANET. PERENNIS.
SUMPSIT. POSITQ. SECURES.
GEORGIO. WASHINGTON.
PATRI. PATRIAE.
QUO. DUCE.
SUMMO. NUMINE. FAVENTE
CIVITATES. FODERATE.
AMERICAE. SEPTENTRIONALIS.

LIBERTATE· LEGESQ.
IMPETRARUNT
CIVES. BALTIMORIENSES.
HAUD. INANE. STUDIO.
TANTAE. LAUDIS. AUCENDAE.
SED. UT.
EXEMPLAR. VITAE.
PATRIAE. Q. ANORIS.
SEMPER. IN. CONSPECTU. HOMINON. ESSET.
H. M.
P. C.

J. H. Pratt, Esq., in his account of laying the corner-stone, proposes another inscription as follows :

MONUMENTUM PATRI PATRIÆ DEDICATUM.

Die quarto Juli, et Christianæ æræ anno 1815, cives BALTIMORIENSES substructionis primum lapidem posuerunt Columnæ Magnificæ, memoriæ GEORGII WASHINGTON sacræ ; sujus nomen, "et laurea et lingua," clarum ac venerable, hisce Americæ civitatibus fœderatis semper æque inclytum et percarum erit et etiam per volventia sæcula, ut dux, miles et vindex patriæ libertatis heroicus, cunctis monumentis quæ tempus edax exciderit, gloria perenni ac fama inculpata, supervixerit.

On entering the gallery of the grand base from the North, an arch-way opens in front across the gallery, which leads to the stairway in the heart of the column ; on the right hand a flight of granite steps descends to the subterranean vaults in the foundation ; on the left a flight of marble steps ascend to the terrace over the grand base, and in continuance to that on the top of the capital of the column. The terrace over the base extends all round the plinth of column 14 feet wide, covered with large marble slabs, forming at the same time the roof of the galleries below ; at the four angles are to be the trophies. The base of the column above its zocle plinth is proposed to be encircled with thirteen colossal bronze shields, emblematic of the Federal Union, the faces of which enriched with the coats of arms of those States which formed the Federal compact, each divided by a massive spear. At some distance above this band of shields, and fronting the four avenues of approach, are four bronze eagles, one on each front, encircled with a wreath which it grasps in its talons, through these wreaths passes the banner of the

Union festooned between, thus forming a continuous line of decoration all round the shaft. The hypotrachelion of the column is fluted. The pedestal of the statue, which is an elongation of the shaft, rises above the capital 15 feet, crowned above the cornice with a stepping dome, reduced from a diameter of 14 feet to a plinth of 4 feet diameter, on which the statue stands. The statue surmounting the whole is of colossal dimensions, 16 feet high, and weighing 15 tons. As you approach the monument up either of the avenues, the figure is reduced by distance to about half its real height.

The statue represents the great man to whom the monument is dedicated in the act of resigning his commission as commander-in-chief of the American army into the hands of those from whom he had received it, having accomplished the great object of his appointment, the freedom and independence of his country. This heroic act, which has elevated the character of WASHINGTON above all praise, took place in this State, and constitutes a noble subject for the sculptor, the painter, and the historian. The artist has been happy in adapting the drapery of his figure to the age, and at the same time preserved that classic elegance which is needful for effect. The costume worn by the General at the period alluded to, is strictly adhered to, and yet no sacrifice of good taste has been made.* The military cloak which covers the figure gives all the effect and dignity which has been sought for by the use of the Grecian robe and Roman tunic which grace the statues of antiquity.

The ascent to the top of the monument is by a flight of 220 marble steps, (which were built into the walls as the work went up,) winding around a solid pillar constituting the core of the column on which the statue stands. The visitor in ascending this heighth, is disposed to proceed with great caution, even with a lantern, (which is furnished by the keeper in charge of the monument,) as more than midnight darkness lies before him; yet he may proceed with perfect confidence, for a solid wall rises on each side of him. (It is intended to light up this stair-way with gas, which will render the ascent more agreeable.) But whatever degree of fatigue is experienced by the visitor, he

*The military dress of General WASHINGTON is now deposited in the room of the National Institute, Patent Office, Washington.

will be fully repaid on reaching the giddy height, by a survey of the delightful prospect which opens before him. Few spots in any city of the world offer more interesting scenery, taken as a whole, than this, either for variety or beauty. To the South, and East, and West, the city is overlooked, studded with numerous handsome edifices, public and private—magnificent domes and splendid spires, glittering in the sun-beams—and its beautiful basin and harbor, locked in by highlands on every side save one, crowded with a forest of masts, and enlivened with the hum of an active commerce.

Beyond this busy scene, Fort McHenry arrests the attention, with its "star-spangled banner" waving in the breeze—a spot celebrated in the events of the last war for the gallant defence which it made against the inroads of the invader. Still further on is seen the Patapsco pursuing its placid course and mingling its waters with those of the Chesapeake Bay, which like a sea expands its majestic waves far as the eye can reach, terminated only by the horizon. Here the sail of commerce is seen perpetually whitening the dark wave, appearing first as a speck in the horizon, which gradually looming, resolves itself sometimes into the gallant ship, sometimes into the plodding coaster, and sometimes into the humble fisherman's bark.

At the very verge of the horizon, *Kent Island* may be seen in a clear day. *Annapolis*, also, would be brought into view, were a small point of woods which intervene cut away.

Looking North, and East, and West, a number of beautiful country seats arrest the attention. Close at hand is Bellevue, the late residence of the venerable Col. Howard, the patriot and hero of the Revolution. Beyond this, on a beautiful eminence, is the cemetry with its interesting monuments—formerly the country seat of the late Robert Oliver, Esq., the patron of public and private improvements, and the friend of the poor. Passing the eye around, other country seats, highly improved, are discovered, many of which are almost hid from the view by umbrageous woods.

Directly east several public buildings are seen; the most distant and elevated are the Maryland Hospital, a noble institution, and Jefferson Medical College, with its imposing towers—nearer is the Penitentiary, and immediately adjoining, the Public Prison, at the foot of which rushes Jones' Falls, a romantic stream, which, after supplying several mills above,

furnishes the city with abundance of wholesome water by means of large reservoirs, all in view from the top of the monument. To the west and south-west, a dense forest, here and there cut through for the passage of the turnpike and railroad leading to the Federal City, Fredericktown, Reisterstown, &c., terminates the view. Thus, whatever direction the eye takes, a varied scene presents itself. Innumerable other objects of interest might be noticed, but the limits allowed us here do not admit of it. The visitor, desirous of being gratified further, ought to take a good map of the city and suburbs up with him, which would enable him to locate every object of notoriety, and at the same time become acquainted with the names of the places or objects interesting him.

The charge of this monument is placed by the managers in the keeping of Mr. Hitzelberger, whose uniform urbanity has rendered him a favorite with all who visit the monument. A lantern light is furnished by him to any one requiring it in their journey through the long ascent involved in more than "Egypt an darkness."

The managers have authorized Mr. Hitzelberger to charge for each visiter ascending to the top of the column twelve-and a-half cents, to pay expenses. Mr. H. keeps a register for the entry of the names of such gentlemen and ladies as visit the monument, and it becomes an interesting record to all, and has lessened the practice previously with some who were desirous of informing their friends of their "whereabouts." Visitors to the monument are therefore requested to enter their names, home, and residence on the register placed at the entrance door.

DIMENSIONS OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT, BALTIMORE.

Square of the ground, in the centre of which is erected the structure	200 feet.
Square of the grand base or zocle	50 "
Height of the grand base	25 "
Projection of the steps and blockings on each front	15 "
Circumference of the iron railing enclosing the grand base	314 "
Height of iron railing and base blocks	6½ "
Diameter of the base of column	20 "

Diameter of neck of column	14 feet.
Height of column to top of capital above zocle	120 "
Square of abacus, forming terrace	20 "
Height of pedestal of statue	20 "
Diameter of plinth of statue	4 "
Height of statue	16 "
Total height of monument	180 "
Weight of statue	33,750 lbs.

The architect of this Monument, Mr. MILLS, is now a resident of the City of Washington, where he is engaged professionally in the service of the General Government, and is also the architect of the National Monument to WASHINGTON, now erecting in that city.

BIOGRAPHY.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was the son of AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, born on the 22d of February, 1732, and grandson of JOHN WASHINGTON, an English gentleman, who emigrated to this country in 1767. When only nineteen years of age he was appointed one of the adjutants general of Virginia, with the rank of major. In the unfortunate action of General BRADDOCK, with the French and Indians, on the banks of the Monongahela, Colonel WASHINGTON, who had been appointed one of his aids, had two horses killed under him, and four balls perforated his coat. Shortly after the defeat and death of that general, he resigned his office and married the widow of Mr. CUSTIS. Our revolutionary troubles commenced about the same time, and Colonel WASHINGTON was chosen a member of the first Congress, from Virginia. On the 25th of June, 1775, he was unanimously chosen by that body, to be General and Commander-in chief of the American forces.* He refused compensation for his services, and repaired to Cambridge, to take command of the American troops, there assembled. The British army under General GAGE then occupied Boston, where they were blockaded, and which place they were compelled to evacuate.

After the evacuation of Boston, the Commander-in-chief departed for New York. He took possession and fortified Long

*In 1775, says Judge Cranch, in his memoir of President ADAMS the elder, (read before the Columbian Institute, March, 1827,) it became necessary to appoint a Commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. General WARD, of Massachusetts, was then at the head of the troops before Boston, and in conference among the members of the Massachusetts delegation in Congress, it is said they were all, except Mr. JOHN ADAMS, of opinion he ought to be elected. Mr. ADAMS, however, was strongly in favor of GEORGE WASHINGTON, then a delegate in Congress from Virginia, and when the conference ended, declared that Colonel WASHINGTON should be nominated. Accordingly on the next day he was, at the request of Mr. ADAMS, nominated by Mr. JOHNSON, of Maryland, and on the 25th June unanimously elected.

Island, which was attacked by the British troops, under the command of General HANCE. The Americans were defeated, and their situation becoming critical, the Commander-in chief, with his usual intrepidity, withdrew his troops in the night; which he did in the face of a victorious enemy, within the reach of the hostile fleet, carrying with him all his stores, &c. The general was on horseback thirty-four hours.

After this, WASHINGTON had to encounter difficulties, from which other men would have shrunk with dismay. His army was broken, dispersed and melting away before a victorious foe-by whom he was incessantly pursued. His troops were destitute of clothing, and in their passage over the Delaware, the prints of their feet stained the snow and ice with blood. A general despondency prevailed, until WASHINGTON, by the decisive battles of Trenton and Princetown, renovated the drooping ardor of his countrymen. The British General in the retreating commander beheld the conqueror; and found that he was a man to be dreaded when oppressed by misfortune. At the battle of Brandywine to the American army happened a defeat. At Germantown an attack was made by the Americans, which, in the outset, promised success; but as the day was misty, neither party could recognize each other at a few yards distant, and our brave countrymen were repulsed.* On the

*An interesting scene here took place. WASHINGTON, anxious to put an end to the brutal sacrifice of life consequent on this attack, turned to his Generals, and in a calm voice asked for an officer who would consent to bear a flag of truce to the enemy. A young and gallant officer of LEE's Rangers sprang from his horse—his name, Lieutenant MATTHEW SMITH, of Virginia. He assumed the snow white flag held sacred by all nations, and advanced to Chew's house, where the enemy was entrenched. In a short time he was lost to sight, amid the folds of the fog. A moment the firing ceased, and the young officer went steadily on and stood within thirty paces of the house, and waving his white flag on high rushed towards the hall door. Alas! he never reached it. He was cruelly shot down. A volley of fire (says the historian) blazed from every window, and the whole American army looked in vain for their messenger of peace. That flag was stained with blood—it was the warm blood flowing from the young Virginian's heart. His comrades wrapt his body within its folds and consigned it to the tomb.

retreat of the American army from Long Island, a mist preserved them from falling into the hands of the British; and at Germantown, a heavy mist endangered their existence. In the attack on Red Bank, the British were repulsed with considerable loss—a place which was finally surrendered. The battle of Monmouth was fought on a day in which the heat was so excessive, that many fell as martyrs of the solar beam.

At this time the heart cheering intelligence was announced that the French cabinet had adopted the controversy of the United States. General La Fayette arrived with intelligence of aid from France, and the exhausted spirits of the Americans were recruited. Count Rochambeau arrived with a reinforcement in 1781, and marched to the North River. Lord Cornwallis, after several severe engagements with General Greene, in which he was equally unfortunate, either in victory or in defeat, retired to Yorktown. General Washington having formed a junction with Count Rochambeau, invested that place and finally compelled his lordship with all his army to surrender. This was the decisive blow to the progress of the British arms in America. Partial engagements succeeded, which were however ended, by a full declaration, on the part of his Britannic majesty, to acknowledge the independence of the United States. Peace was then restored, and General Washington resigned his commission as Commander-in-chief of the American armies.

General Washington then retired from the fatigues, dangers, hardships, and turmoils of the camp, to repose on his laurels in the quietude of domestic retirement; beloved, admired, and almost idolized by his country. The public charter of confederation, however, by which the United States were held together, Congress having no power to enforce their resolutions, soon became apparent. A convention was held for the purpose of forming a more vigorous constitution, of which body, he was made the President. That constitution was framed, submitted to the ratification of the different States, finally adopted, and is the very charter under which we now live. He was made the first President by an unanimous vote of the several States, at a time when they were torn by faction, and for eight years of his Presidency, he left but one impression on the public mind, that of admiration of his virtues. Twice was he called by his fellow-citizens to that important office, and, on the most trying occasions, twice were those suffrages unanimous.

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